



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
UNIT 21420
APO AE 09705-1420

ACCH

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: USANATO Command Policy Letter 22, Family Advocacy Program

1. Reference AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, 27 September 2004.
2. The men and women of USANATO uphold the highest tradition of respect, honor, integrity, and personal courage. These are traditional military values, and our Soldiers live by them. These values, however, can be destroyed by family violence, such as spouse and child abuse.
3. The responsibility of USANATO commanders in preventing family violence is one that demands attentive leadership. As leaders, commanders have direct responsibility to integrate and align themselves with the agencies that support their Soldiers and families. The awareness of family stress and violence in the day-to-day contact with their Soldiers, civilian employees, and their families must be the number-one indicator for leaders in USANATO. Sensitive leaders recognize when their Soldiers show signs of anxiety or tension that could lead to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of family members. Caring leaders also know how to spot signs that indicate that their Soldiers are being victimized.
4. To prevent family violence and to provide guidance for dealing with it when it occurs, the Army established the Family Advocacy Program (FAP). The FAP is a commander's program that provides guidance on how to prevent family violence and how to report, investigate, and treat spouse and child abuse when prevention fails.
5. The goal of the FAP is to prevent family violence. One of the primary ways of doing this is by helping commanders learn to recognize signs of potential violence. For instance, in directing the overall management of the FAP, the service coordinator for the Army, the Army Community Service (ACS), under the leadership of IMA-EURO—
 - a. Teaches commanders how to prevent, identify, assess, and treat family violence. The ACS does this by providing commanders the mandatory FAP briefing within 45 days after they assume command. In addition, the ACS provides annual training for all Soldiers on the family dynamics of spouse and child abuse, the availability of prevention and treatment services, and the Army's policy on family violence.
 - b. Gives each commander and noncommissioned officer a copy of the FAP Desk Guide. This guide provides clear and specific steps leaders must take to prevent family violence. It also provides essential guidance on how to intervene when violence occurs.
 - c. Coordinates FAP services with appointed medical facilities, social services, chaplains, law-enforcement personnel, staff judge advocates, and others.

This letter is available at <http://www.usanato.army.mil>.

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6. Commanders will participate in the FAP by—

a. Attending case-review-committee meetings and complying with the committee's recommendations to the maximum extent possible.

b. Understanding the options available for disciplining offenders, to include administrative disciplinary actions and punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

7. The reporting requirements of AR 608-18 encourage every Soldier, employee, and member of the military community to report information concerning known and suspected cases of child and spouse abuse. AR 608-18 also requires commanders, law-enforcement personnel, doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, youth-services personnel, and other medical personnel to report known and suspected abuse.

8. Commanders must immediately report known and suspected child and spouse abuse to the 24-hour reporting point of contact (RPOC). In the European theater, the 24-hour RPOC is the military police. In addition, commanders must immediately contact the unit or family life chaplain and set up a support base for the family, and direct leaders at all levels in the chain of command to be caring and sensitive to the situation.

9. Commanders play an active role in the treatment process by communicating with the FAP multidisciplinary team and ensuring that Soldiers are given time to attend services (for example, counseling and classes outlined in the treatment plan). Completion of services for victims is critical to helping them recover from violence and getting offenders to solve problems that led them to commit acts of violence.

10. Commanders and other leaders must be aware that family violence is not just a violation of Army regulations, it is also a violation of Federal law. All commanders are urged to coordinate with legal experts and consider the multidisciplinary team's determination and service recommendations, especially when violence recurs. Commanders should consider the Soldier's service record, retention potential, and compliance or noncompliance with command-directed treatment or administrative restrictions. Commanders should also ensure that families receive transitional compensation information on entitlements and financial benefits if the Soldier is separated from active duty because of adverse disciplinary action that resulted from the Soldier's abusing a family member.

11. Family violence is unacceptable, incompatible with the Army's core values, and will not be tolerated in the European theater. By establishing trust, offering support, encouraging nonviolence, and providing solutions to problems, commanders can prevent a family situation from escalating to a crisis or resulting in violence.

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12. Commanders must remember the following guidelines for preventing family violence:

- a. Openly discuss prevention strategies.
- b. Listen carefully to Soldiers to build trust.
- c. Teach Soldiers to take responsibility for their actions.
- d. Set the example.
- e. Emphasize that family violence will not be tolerated in USANATO.



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Commanding

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